

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00
ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03
NEAE-00 /093 W
-----100510 241330Z /43

P R 241137Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8203
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK 772

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MANILA FOR USADB

PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: STATUS OF UN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. KBAUL 4167; B. KABUL 4109

1. ON MAY 21, HEDAYATULLAH AKRAM, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.N. AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (DIRECTOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI WAS THEN ATTENDING THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT HAVANA), TOLD ARTHUR N. HOLCOMBE, UNDP'S RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AD INTERIM, AND FRITZ LOEBUS, THE UNDP ASSISTANT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WHO OVERSEES NARCOTICS MATTERS, THAT:

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A. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) DOES WANT THE UN NARCOTICS TEAM TO CONTINUE ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HERE ON A ONE-YEAR, RENEWABLE CONTRACT BASIS.

B. THE TERMS OF THE PRESENT CONTRACT WILL BE DISCUSSED WHEN IT COMES UP FOR RENEGOTIATION BEFORE ITS EXPIRATION

ON JANUARY 8, 1979.

C. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT SENIOR U.N. NARCOTICS ADVISOR, WEST GERMAN POLICE CAPTAIN CHRISTIAN MAGNUSEN, HAS DONE "GOOD" WORK HERE, HE SHOULD BE REPLACED, NOW THAT HIS CONTRACT HAS EXPIRED. THIS WAS UNPLEASANT SURPRISE FOR MAGNUSSAN (REFTELS), WHO NOW PLANS TO DEPART AFGHANISTAN "NO LATER THAN JUNE 15." AKRAM ADDED THAT THE DRA WOULD NOW PREFER A NARCOTICS EXPERT FROM A NON-ALIGNED SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRY AS SENIOR ADVISOR (THE AFGHANS CLAIM THAT THIS HAD BEEN THEIR SPECIFIED PREFERENCE WHEN THEY INITIALLY AGREED TO A UN PROGRAM HERE, BUT THAT GENEVA HAD SENT A GERMAN INSTEAD).

D. AS FOR MAGNUSEN'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANT, WEST GERMAN POLICE SERGEANT HEINZ KLEIST, AKRAM SAID THAT HE COULD STAY UNTIL HIS CONTRACT EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 30 OF THIS YEAR, AT WHICH TIME THERE MIGHT BE A "POSSIBILITY" THAT IT WILL BE RENEWED. (LOCAL GERMAN DIPLOMATS THINK KLEIST'S CONTRACT WILL NOT BE RENEWED, HOWEVER).

2. MAGNUSEN RECENTLY RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM MICHAEL DAVIES OF UNDND TO COMMENT ON THE LATTER'S PROPOSAL THAT A REGIONAL NARCOTICS ADVISOR (RNA) POSITION BE ESTABLISHED TO OVERSEE UNDND OPERATIONS IN TURKEY, IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN. DAVIES HAD PROPOSED THAT

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THIS MAN BE BASED IN TEHRAN. MAGNUSEN IS TELLING DAVIES THAT THE RNA IDEA IS GOOD, BUT THAT BASING HIM IN ONE OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES WOULD INHIBIT HIS OPERATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY IN THE OTHERS. MAGNUSEN THINKS THE RNA SHOULD BE BASED IN GENEVA. AS HIS OWN PERSONAL CONTRACT WITH THE UN HAS BEEN RENEWED FOR ANOTHER YEAR, MAGNUSEN HOPES TO GET THIS JOB HIMSELF. IN VIEW OF HIS FIELD EXPERIENCE IN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN, HE MIGHT NOT BE A BAD CHOICE -- PROVIDED THAT HE INDEED REMAINS PERSONA GRATA WITH THE AFGHANS.

3. HOLCOMBE IS SEEKING AN EARLY MEETING WITH INTERIOR MINISTER NOOR AHMAD NOOR TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL THE FUTURE OF THE UN'S ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS HERE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KABUL04256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780218-1120
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780525/aaaaauqz.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8565c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KABUL 4109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2591270
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF UN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8565c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014